

## Draft Permit Clearinghouse MOA Outline

- 1) The CALFED agencies intend to implement the CALFED program in a manner that is consistent, timely, balanced, efficient, and cooperative.
- 2) The CALFED agencies agree to establish a permit clearinghouse process to coordinate and expedite permit applications across all CALFED programs.
- 3) The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will provide the following tools and processes as part of the permit clearinghouse process:
  - a) Inventory of permits needed
  - b) Permit handbook
  - c) Permit tracking database that tracks milestones for CALFED actions.
  - d) Unified application format
  - e) Non-binding dispute resolution process that can assist implementing or regulatory agencies with resolution of disagreements
  - f) Annual reports and meetings to track progress
  - g) Permit coordinators for each of the CALFED programs who will provide guidance on:
    - NEPA/CEQA
    - Tiering off EIS/EIR, 401, MSCS, 404, and CZMA
    - ASIP's as part of MSCS
    - Grouping environmental compliance activities
    - Including environmental considerations as part of project formulation
- 4) The CALFED agencies working in both regulatory and implementation roles will do the following as part of the permit clearinghouse process:
  - a) Participate in regular meetings and assist in preparation of annual reports to track progress on overall CALFED program implementation.
  - b) Identify and pursue regional environmental permits, opportunities to group permits, a single environmental review process for multiple projects, or other measures that increase the efficiency of environmental compliance efforts.
  - c) Appoint a single point of contact for their agency and as appropriate, a single point of contact for regulatory compliance activities.
  - d) Form multi-agency, multi-disciplinary teams to assist in project definition, impact analysis, identification of avoidance and mitigation measures, development of permit conditions and information necessary to comply with regulatory requirements (i.e. Biological assessments, alternative analysis, etc).
  - e) Agree to prepare environmental documents including 401, 404, CZMA, CESA, FESA etc that are consistent with the PEIS/EIR.

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- f) Develop standard guidance, study methodologies, and mitigation requirements as needed.
- g) Respond in a timely manner to environmental documents, permit applications, other regulatory requirements.
- h) Ensure that environmental considerations are an integral part of project formulation.
- i) Identify issues in dispute early, attempt to resolve those issues at the lowest level possible, and elevate those issues as needed in an orderly manner so that they can be resolved and not result in delays.

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